

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) An information device, comprising:

means for storing an encrypted content and a license;

means for receiving grouped device identification information, for receiving key information in response to a transmission of device identification information of the information device and upon a determination that fewer than a predetermined number of information devices are associated with the grouped device identification information, and for receiving the license based on the grouped device identification information; and

means for reading out the license based on the encrypted content, for reading out the grouped device identification information based on the license, for reading out the key information based on the grouped device identification information, and for decrypting the encrypted content based on the key information.

2. (Previously Presented) The information device according to claim 1, wherein the license includes license identification information and the grouped device identification information.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The information device according to claim 1, further comprising:

means for transmitting the transmission to an information server.

5. (Previously Presented) The information device according to claim 4, wherein the means for receiving receives the grouped device identification information and the key information from the information server.

6. (Previously Presented) The information device according to claim 4, wherein the means for storing stores the device identification information, which uniquely identifies the information device from the information devices.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The information device according to claim 6, further comprising:

means for requesting the information server to delete from the information server the device identification information.

9. (Previously Presented) The information device according to claim 1, wherein the information devices are owned by one user.

10. (Currently Amended) The information device according to claim 1, wherein[[,]] the key information corresponds to a device node key allocated to the information devices, the device node key being a node in a bottom layer among a plurality of node keys in a hierarchical tree structure, ~~wherein~~

each of the plurality of node keys is encrypted and corresponds to a different node in the hierarchical tree structure, which branches off from a top layer to the bottom layer,

the encrypted content is multiply encrypted by each of the plurality of node keys on a path in the hierarchical tree structure from the device node key to a root key, the root key being one of the plurality of node keys in the top layer of the hierarchical tree structure, and the means for reading out sequentially decrypts each of the plurality of node keys on the path from the device node key to the root key in the hierarchical tree structure, using the key information as the device node key to obtain the root key, and then decrypts the encrypted content by using the root key.

11. (Currently Amended) The information device according to claim 10, wherein the encrypted content is encrypted by a content key that is encrypted by the root key, and the means for reading out decrypts the content key by using the root key, and then decrypts the encrypted content using the content key.

12. (Previously Presented) The information device according to claim 1, wherein the encrypted content includes at least one of text data, still image data, moving image data, or voice data.

13. (Previously Presented) An information server that enables a use of an encrypted content, the information server comprising:

means for determining whether fewer than a predetermined number of information devices are associated with grouped device identification information;

means for providing key information, in response to a receipt of device identification information of an information device and upon the means for determining determining that fewer than the predetermined number of information devices are associated with the grouped

device identification information, the grouped device identification information identifying the key information, the key information decrypting an encrypted content; and

means for transmitting a license based on the grouped device identification information, the license identifying the grouped device identification information and being identified by the encrypted content.

14. (Previously Presented) The information server according to claim 13, further comprising:

means for receiving the device identification information from one of the information devices; and

means for associating the device identification information with the grouped device identification information.

15. (Previously Presented) The information server according to claim 14, wherein the means for determining refuses a device registration request from an information device, after a number of the information devices reaches the predetermined number.

16. (Previously Presented) The information server according to claim 14, wherein the means for determining deletes the device identification information, which is specified by a device registration deletion request from the one of the plurality of information devices.

17. (Previously Presented) The information server according to claim 13, further comprising:

means for determining whether to charge for transmitting the license from the information server, based on whether the grouped device identification information has been provided by the information server.

18. (Previously Presented) The information server according to claim 13, wherein the information devices are owned by one user.

19. (Currently Amended) An information processing system, comprising:  
an information server; and  
an information device configured to receive a service from the information server through communication lines, wherein[[,]]  
the information server includes[[,]]

means for determining whether fewer than a predetermined number of information devices are associated with grouped device identification information;

means for providing key information in response to a receipt of device identification information of [[an]] the information device and upon the means for determining determining that fewer than the predetermined number of information devices are associated with the grouped device identification information, the grouped device identification information identifying the key information, the key information decrypting an encrypted content, and

means for transmitting a license, based on the grouped device identification information, the license identifying the grouped device identification information and being identified by the encrypted content, and

the information device includes[[,]]

means for storing the encrypted content, the license, the grouped device identification information, and the key information; and

means for reading out the license based on the encrypted content, for reading out the grouped device identification information based on the license, for reading out the key information based on the grouped device identification information, and for decrypting the encrypted content based on the key information.

20. (Previously Presented) An information processing method implemented by a decryption apparatus, the information processing method comprising:

storing an encrypted content;

receiving grouped device identification information;

receiving key information, in response to a transmission of device identification information of the decryption apparatus and upon a determination that fewer than a predetermined number of decryption apparatuses are associated with the grouped device identification information;

receiving a license based on the grouped device identification information;

reading out, with the decryption apparatus, the license based on the encrypted content;

reading out, with the decryption apparatus, the grouped device identification information based on the license;

reading out, with the decryption apparatus, the key information based on the grouped device identification information; and

decrypting the encrypted content with the decryption apparatus, based on the key information.

21-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) An information device, comprising:

a memory configured to store an encrypted content and a license;

an interface configured to receive grouped device identification information, ~~[[and]]~~

to receive key information, in response to a transmission of device identification information of the information device and upon a determination that fewer than a predetermined number of information devices are associated with the grouped device identification information, and

to receive a license based on the grouped device identification information; and

a processing unit configured to read out the license based on the encrypted content, to read out the grouped device identification information based on the license, to read out the key information based on the grouped device identification information, and to decrypt the encrypted content based on the key information.

24. (Currently Amended) An information server, comprising:

a processing unit configured to determine whether fewer than a predetermined number of information devices are associated with grouped device identification information;

an interface configured to provide key information in response to a receipt of device identification information of an information device and upon the processing unit determining that fewer than the predetermined number of information devices are associated with the grouped device identification information, the grouped device identification information identifying the key information, the key information decrypting an encrypted content, and to transmit a license based on the grouped device identification information, the license identifying the grouped device identification information and being identified by the encrypted content.

25. (Previously Presented) An information processing method for an information server, the method comprising:

determining, with the information server, whether fewer than a predetermined number of information devices are associated with grouped device identification information;

providing key information from the information server in response to a receipt of device identification information of an information device and upon determining that fewer than the predetermined number of information devices are associated with the grouped device identification information in the determining, the grouped device identification information identifying the key information, the key information decrypting an encrypted content; and

transmitting a license based on the grouped device identification information, the license identifying the grouped device identification information and being identified by the encrypted content.